

Request for Reconsideration:

Applicants are amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3 and are cancelling claim 3, without prejudice. In view of these amendments, claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are pending in this application. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the foregoing amendments, and reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Remarks:

1. **Objections and Rejections.**

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner has withdrawn the objections to **Figs. 6 and 7** as allegedly failing to include the label: “Prior Art.”¹ Office Action, Page 2, Lines 2-4. Nevertheless, claims 1 and 3-5 again stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Patent No. US 6,467,296 B2 to Fujii et al. (“Fujii”), and claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), as allegedly anticipated by Patent No. US 6,398,519 B2 to Fukai et al. (“Fukai”). The Office Action has made these rejections **final**. Applicant respectfully traverse.

2. **Anticipation Rejections.**

As noted above, claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by Fujii, and claims 1 and 2 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by Fukai. “A claim is anticipated if and only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP 2131. The Office Action alleges that Fujii or Fukai describes each and every element as set forth in claim 1.

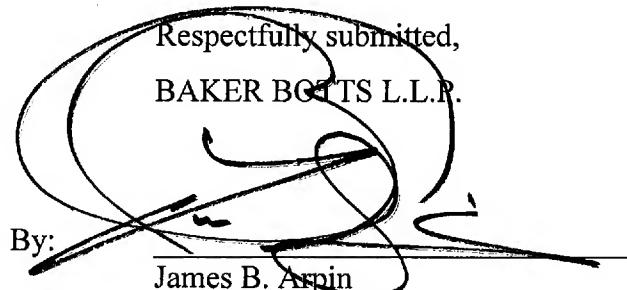
In order to distinguish the claimed invention, as described in claim 3 over Fujii and Fukai, Applicants are amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3. While the Office Action acknowledges that Fukai does not disclose that “the contact surfaces are continuously formed between the engaging portions through the side wall portion,” the Office Action fails to identify any support in Fujii for the contention that Fujii discloses this limitation. Office Action, Page 2, Lines 17-18 and Page 3, Lines 15-19; compare, e.g., Appl’n, Page 6, Lines 1-10; Page 7, Lines 6-10. Thus, referring to Applicants’ **Fig. 4**, for example, the Office Action fails to demonstrate that Fujii discloses a contact surface, such as contact surface 14, which is continuously formed over engaging portions, such as engaging portions 10a and 10b, and a side wall portion, such side wall portion 10c. Appl’n, Page 8, Lines 20-23. Therefore, Applicants maintain that by amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3, the rejections of claim 1, 2, 4, and 5 become untenable. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,

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Applicants respectfully traverse the anticipation rejections, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejections to claims 1,2, 4, and 5.

Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully submit that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a further interview with Applicants' representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,
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